



## State of Tennessee

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

By Representatives Larry Miller, Armstrong, Bass, Harry Brooks, Kevin Brooks, Brown, Campbell, Camper, Carr, Casada, Cobb, Coley, Cooper, Curtiss, Dean, John DeBerry, Dennis, Dunn, Elam, Eldridge, Faison, Favors, Fitzhugh, Floyd, Ford, Forgety, Gilmore, Gotto, Halford, Hall, Hardaway, Harmon, Harrison, Hawk, Haynes, Hensley, Hill, Hurley, Curtis Johnson, Phillip Johnson, Jones, Keisling, Kernell, Lollar, Lundberg, Maggart, Marsh, Matheny, Matlock, McDaniel, McDonald, McManus, Don Miller, Montgomery, Moore, Naifeh, Niceley, Odom, Parkinson, Pitts, Powers, Pruitt, Ramsey, Rich, Richardson, Roach, Sanderson, Sargent, Sexton, Shaw, Shepard, Shipley, Sontany, Sparks, Stewart, Swann, Tidwell, Tindell, Todd, Towns, Johnnie Turner, Mike Turner, Watson, Weaver, White, Kent Williams, Ryan Williams, Windle, Wirgau, Womick and Madam Speaker Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the meritorious service of Elmore Nickleberry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor and recognize those estimable citizens that, through their courageous efforts, have advanced the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights and promoted racial equality in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Elmore Nickleberry is one such estimable individual, who helped this great nation mature into an even more just and equitable democracy; and

WHEREAS, the son of a World War II veteran, Mr. Nickleberry served with the courage and conviction of a true patriot as a member of the Eighth Armored Division in the United States Army, rendering sterling service throughout the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, when he returned home to his beloved country in 1954, he found Jim Crowism continuing to pervade all aspects of life in Memphis and a pattern of racial exclusiveness still prevailing in Memphis's schools and public facilities, including libraries, restrooms, waiting areas, snack counters, transportation terminals, theaters, hotels, restaurants, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, after enduring years of blatant discrimination and dangerous working conditions as a sanitation worker for the City of Memphis, Elmore Nickleberry, in 1968, stood among 1,300 fellow African-American men and collectively asserted their right to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, determined to end the despicable bigotry that plagued the River City, the sanitation workers, most of whom lived below the poverty level, launched what became known as the Memphis Sanitation Strike, taking their strike to the streets of downtown Memphis and carrying signs which proudly declared, "I AM A MAN"; and

WHEREAS, sixty-five days after the strike first began and twelve days after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated, the opposing sides finally reached an agreement, and Mr. Nickleberry and his courageous co-workers returned to their jobs with renewed vigor and hope that brighter days were ahead; and

WHEREAS, more than four decades later, Mr. Nickleberry continues to serve with acumen and alacrity at the Public Works Department in Memphis, expertly guiding his garbage truck through the streets of Memphis and, every day, driving past the place where an assassin's bullet killed the man who taught him to dream; and

WHEREAS, as an active participant in the movements for civil rights and economic justice, Elmore Nickleberry is truly a catalyst for positive change who is most assuredly deserving of commendation for his superb contributions and heroic efforts to secure the full promise of democracy for all Americans; now, therefore,

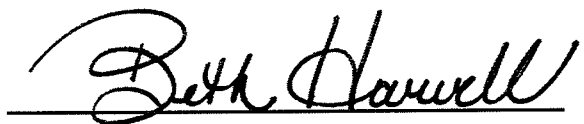
**HR 114**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and recognize Elmore Nickleberry for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and this country, applaud his commitment to preserving the civil rights of and attaining equality for all people in this country, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 5, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beth Harwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES